

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01543 151247Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 AID-05
EB-08 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 IO-13
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04
SIL-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 AGRE-00 DOE-15 DOEE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6784
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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LONDON FOR DEPUTY ASST. SEC. BUSHNELL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, GY, UK, PDIP
SUBJECT: PRIMIN BURNHAM'S PRESS CONFERENCE, MAY 13: BRITISH AID
AND THE CARIBBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP

1. PRIMIN FORBES BURNHAM, WHO IS JUST BACK FROM A 28-DAY
MULTI-NATION TOUR, GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN GEORGETOWN
MAY 13 IN WHICH HE REVIEWED HIS TRIP TO THE USSR, NORTH
KOREA, EAST BERLIN AND LONDON. IN AN OPENING STATEMENT HE
OUTLINED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE
TRIP IN TERMS OF THE AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS ENTERED
INTO IN MOSCOW, PYONGYANG, EAST BERLIN AND LONDON. HE THEN
WENT ON TO EXPLAIN AND DEFEND HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL FOR
A CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM WHICH, IF APPROVED, WOULD GIVE
THE PARLIAMENT (WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLS) CARTE BLANCHE
TO CHANGE THE EXISTING CONSTITUTION IN WHOLE OR PART BY A
TWO-THIRDS VOTE. OTHER PARTS OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL
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PAGE 02 GEORGE 01543 151247Z

BE REPORTED SEPTEL. WHAT FOLLOWS ARE SPECIFIC REFER-
ENCES TO HIS MEETINGS IN LONDON, INCLUDING A REFERENCE
TO THE CARIBBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP.

2. AFTER RECITING WHAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AT THE
FIRST THREE STOPS ON HIS TRIP, BURNHAM REPORTED THAT HE
AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD HAD "WIDE RANGING TALKS" IN

LONDON WITH PRIMIN CALLAGHAN, MINISTER OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT JUDITH HART AND DR. DAVID OWEN (IN THAT ORDER). ULTIMATELY, THESE TALKS HAD FOCUSED ON BILATERAL ISSUES AND AREAS OF FUTURE COOPERATION FOR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE, INCLUDING "DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TERMS OF CREDIT AND OTHER FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS." (THIS APPEARS AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO TALKS WHICH HAVE BEEN GOING ON BETWEEN GOG AND THE UK RE A POSSIBLE "ROLL-OVER" OF EXISTING BILATERAL DEBTS.) HE THEN WENT ON TO REFER TO THE RECENT EMERGENCY ODM CREDIT OF SEVEN MILLION POUNDS FOR TWO GENERATORS, PLUS SPARES FOR THE DEMERARA BRIDGE (A UK AID PROJECT).

3. THERE WAS ONE SPECIFIC QUESTION ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP DURING THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD: QUOTE: (REPORTER) - IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN, DID YOU DISCUSS THE PROPOSED CARIBBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND IF SO WHAT IS THE PRESENT STAGE OF THE DISCUSSIONS?

(BURNHAM): OF COURSE WE DISCUSSED IT BECAUSE BRITAIN HERSELF IS A MEMBER OF THE PROPOSED GROUP BUT ALL I THINK I AM PERMITTED TO SAY AT THE MOMENT IS THAT THERE IS TO BE ANOTHER MEETING OF THE GROUP IN GENEVA FAIRLY SOON--OR PARIS, THEY'RE BOTH FRENCH-SPEAKING, AREN'T THEY (NA,HA)--IN PARIS PRETTY SOON AND I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UK, AFTER MY DISCUSSIONS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GEORGE 01543 151247Z

MR. CALLAGHAN, IS MORE FORWARD THINKING AND MORE LIKELY TO BE SYMPATHETIC THAN SOME OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP. BUT FURTHER THAN THAT I DON'T THINK I'M PERMITTED TO REVEAL ALL THE DETAILS OF A DISCUSSION BETWEEN PRIME MINISTERS. END QUOTE.
BURKE

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